



## Rear Admiral Cari B. Thomas

Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District  
U.S. Coast Guard



Rear Admiral Thomas assumed duties as Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District in May 2013. The area of responsibility spans over 12.2 million square miles and includes the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, American Samoa and activities in Saipan, Singapore and Japan. This encompasses a region nearly three times the size of the continental United States.

Prior to reporting District Fourteen, Rear Admiral Thomas was the Assistant Commandant of Response Policy, where she oversaw the development of Coast Guard response doctrine and policy guidance. As part of these duties, she led or participated in U.S. delegations negotiating treaties for Arctic search and rescue and oil spill responses as well as overseeing a number of other international agreements that encompassed fisheries enforcement in the Western and Southern Pacific, oil spill responses in the Caribbean and Arctic and counterdrug operations in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.



A 1984 graduate of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, Rear Admiral Thomas served on cutters VIGOROUS, VALIANT, and commanded MANITOU. Additionally, other operational assignments included Group-Air Station Atlantic City and Commander, Sector Miami, Response Operations. Highlights of these assignments included Operation Wagonwheel, T/S MEGA BORG fire and oil spill, Operations Able Vigil and Uphold Democracy, and numerous hurricane responses and national security special events; she earned certification as a Type II Incident Commander in 2006. Rear Admiral Thomas also served in the Personnel Command, as a Program Reviewer at Headquarters, the Executive Assistant to the Atlantic Area Commander and the Atlantic Area Resource Director. As a Captain, she was the Commanding Officer, Training Center Cape May, the only enlisted accession source. She served as the DHS Chief of Staff to Principal Federal Official (PFO), Northeast Region and as the predesignated Deputy PFO, Florida. Rear Admiral Thomas is a member of Capstone 2010-02, and Joint Maritime Component Commander Course 2011-01.

Rear Admiral Thomas graduated with distinction from the Naval War College with a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies, and has completed Harvard's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. She also holds a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Troy State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Coast Guard Academy. She is currently the Chair, Board of Directors of the Sea Services Leadership Association and has served on other non-profit boards as a member.

Her awards include the Legion of Merit, five Meritorious Service Medals, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Department of State Superior Honor Award among many other personal, unit and campaign awards. She earned permanent cutterman status in 1994.